

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 013154
ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 AF-10
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 L-03 /070 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RNA/NE: JRHOOPER
APPROVED BY INR/DDR: MPACKMAN
NEA/ARN: WNHOWELL
NEA/ARN: DEREUTHER
EUR/WE: JWSWIHART (PHONE)
INR/RWE: HLCOBURN
INR/RAF: AMREID (PHONE)
AF/E: GWSCOTT (INFO)
-----040037 181446Z /46

R 172336Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013154

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINR, IZ, ET

SUBJECT: IRAQI MEDIATION OF ETHIOPIAN-ERITREAN SOMALI
DISPUTE

1. WE HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED INFORMATION INDICATING
IRAQI RECEPTIVITY TO ETHIOPIAN PROPOSALS TO MEDIATE THE
DISPUTE WITH THE ERITREANS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AN
OFFICER FROM THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS MAINTAINS
RELATIVELY FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS ERITREAN
SOURCES. IF YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION, WOULD THE EMBASSY
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APPROACH THIS EMBOFF TO OBTAIN ANY DETAILS HE MAY POSSESS
REGARDING IRAQ'S CURRENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ETHIOPIANS,
ERITREANS, AND SOMALIS? YOU MAY ADVISE HIM THAT, IN
CONJUNCTION WITH A RECENT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED VISIT TO
BAGHDAD BY ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS ARE
CIRCULATING WHICH SUGGEST THAT THE IRAQIS ARE NOW CON-
TEMPLATING A MEDIATORY ROLE IN THE CONFLICTS INVOLVING

ETHIOPIA WITH THE ERITREANS AND THE SOMALIS. ANY DETAILS
HE CAN PROVIDE AT THIS TIME OR IN THE FUTURE WOULD ASSIST
US TO EVALUATE IRAQ'S SEEMINGLY EVOLVING ROLE IN THE
HORN. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINR, IZ, ET
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